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great assistance to the book-buyer, and in his "List of Principal Authorities." We wish, too, that he might have given a short chapter to the literature of Spanish America; but the shortcomings of the book are not serious, and it is heartily to be commended to all whom it concerns. B. W. W.

History of Elections in the American Colonies. By Cortland F. Bishop, Ph.D. [*Studies in History, Economics and Public Law.* Edited by the University Faculty of Political Science of Columbia College. Volume iii., No. 1.] Columbia College, New York. 1893. 8vo., pp. v., 297.

ONE of the most gratifying indications of the good work that is doing in American history is to be found in the fact that, one by one, our great universities are following the example set by the Johns Hopkins, and issuing a series of historical studies or monographs which are simply invaluable to the students of our history, whether general or special. Harvard has such a series, or, counting the *Fag House* monographs, two such series, in which such admirable studies as Mr. Mason's *Veto Power*, and Mr. McDougal's *Fugitive Slaves*, reviewed by the present writer in another place, have appeared. Yale has recently established that excellent quarterly, *The Yale Review*, to cover the same ground. The Columbia College monographs are growing in number, and form a very valuable contribution to our historical literature. Even the ancient college of William and Mary, awaking from her long sleep, has entered the field with a quarterly devoted to Virginia genealogy and history. The value of these studies may be easily overlooked by the general reader, who is usually repelled by that very minuteness of treatment which makes them such valuable helps to the trained historical student. But the consensus of general opinion is, unfortunately, the chief bestower of fame, and so it comes to pass that the specialist who has devoted months and years to the study of an obscure and important subject is compelled to look to a very small band of fellow-workers for recognition of his labors. In the highest regions of rarefied altruism this ought to be a sufficient reward; but we are all

human and we all like praise. Hence it is that it is incumbent upon all reviewers of such a volume as that before us, to lay great stress, not only upon its value, but upon the painstaking and honorable labor that went to its composition.

Dr. Bishop has taken an important subject and treated it exhaustively and with great ability. The methods of election used by a people when properly studied throw a great deal of light upon the character of that people—a fact which unfortunately is becoming plainer year by year in this devoted country. Perhaps Dr. Bishop might here and there have allowed himself more liberty of general discussion than he has done; but his space was limited, and he has certainly suggested many points for study and reflection.

His monograph is divided into two parts—one treating of General Elections, the other of Local Elections. The treatment of each subject is logical and exhaustive. Chapter I. gives the history of general elections in the different colonies, and contains much interesting data—as, for example, the description of the curious *referendum* in Rhode Island, which abundantly illustrates our early spirit of local autonomy, both in Church and State, although it is to be remarked that the Rhode Island nullifiers were far less grasping in their demands than their namesakes of a later date.

Chapter II. treats of the suffrage and its qualifications. It contains little to gratify the advocates of woman's rights and shows further that in spite of restrictive laws in Berkeley County, S. C., in 1701, "free negroes were received and taken for as good electors as the best freeholders in the province"—a fact which was much complained of.

Chapter III. discusses the management of elections and gives us many interesting details. The bean ballot of Massachusetts, the early methods of nominating candidates, the difficulties of bringing voters together in the sparsely settled communities, are some of the interesting topics treated. The Virginia methods are specially interesting, throwing light as they do, upon the free, uncramped life of the people and their loyal observance of English traditions and customs.

The provisions against fraud show that our forefathers were not absolutely impeccable, although the absence of statutes against bribery in the New England States, if charitably interpreted, speaks well for Puritan morals. It is interesting further to note that the question of compulsory voting, which is frequently discussed nowadays, was also in our fathers' minds, and that in at least four States, one of which was Virginia, statutes were passed on the subject.

Part II. discusses local elections, and follows the order observed in Part I. Four valuable appendices conclude this careful monograph, which reflects credit both upon its author and its source of issue. An index was desirable, but perhaps this was reserved for the second study of the volume. Still, as Dr. Bishop's book is sold separately, it is unfortunate that it is not provided with a separate index. We may conclude our review with the statement that there is little in Dr. Bishop's treatment of his subject to please the followers of the late Mr. Douglas Campbell in his extensive claims for Holland as the source of many of those political practices and institutions to which we had been ignorantly assigning an English origin. In one point Dr. Bishop takes direct issue with Mr. Campbell's statement that the ballot did not appear in the colonies south of Pennsylvania. He shows that "the ballot in the Carolinas was as fully developed in the direction of secrecy as in those colonies under the influence of Puritan ideas."

W. P. T.

Boewulf, An Anglo-Saxon Epic Poem, translated from the Heyne-Socin text by Jno. Leslie Hall. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co.

WE note with great pleasure that the interest in Anglo-Saxon studies and in good poetry has so soon justified the reprinting of a book of such real merit as this translation of the first Germanic epic. It is certainly better in every detail than any English translation that has preceded it, and it may be only the prejudice of youthful association that leads us to prefer the German version of Grein. It is certain, however, that the structure of the German language lends itself